



DNAS Museum News - May, 2018

**AS LONG AS THERE ARE VETERANS
WE WILL NEVER FORGET**



MAY 28, 2018

IN MEMORY OF LT. ROBERT W. BANTA



The DeLand Naval Air Station members were notified that WWII Veteran Lt. Robert Banta passed away on 4/18/2018 in Juno Beach, Florida at the age of 97. We send our condolences to his wife Virginia, 3 sons, Bob, Bruce and Bert, 6 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren.

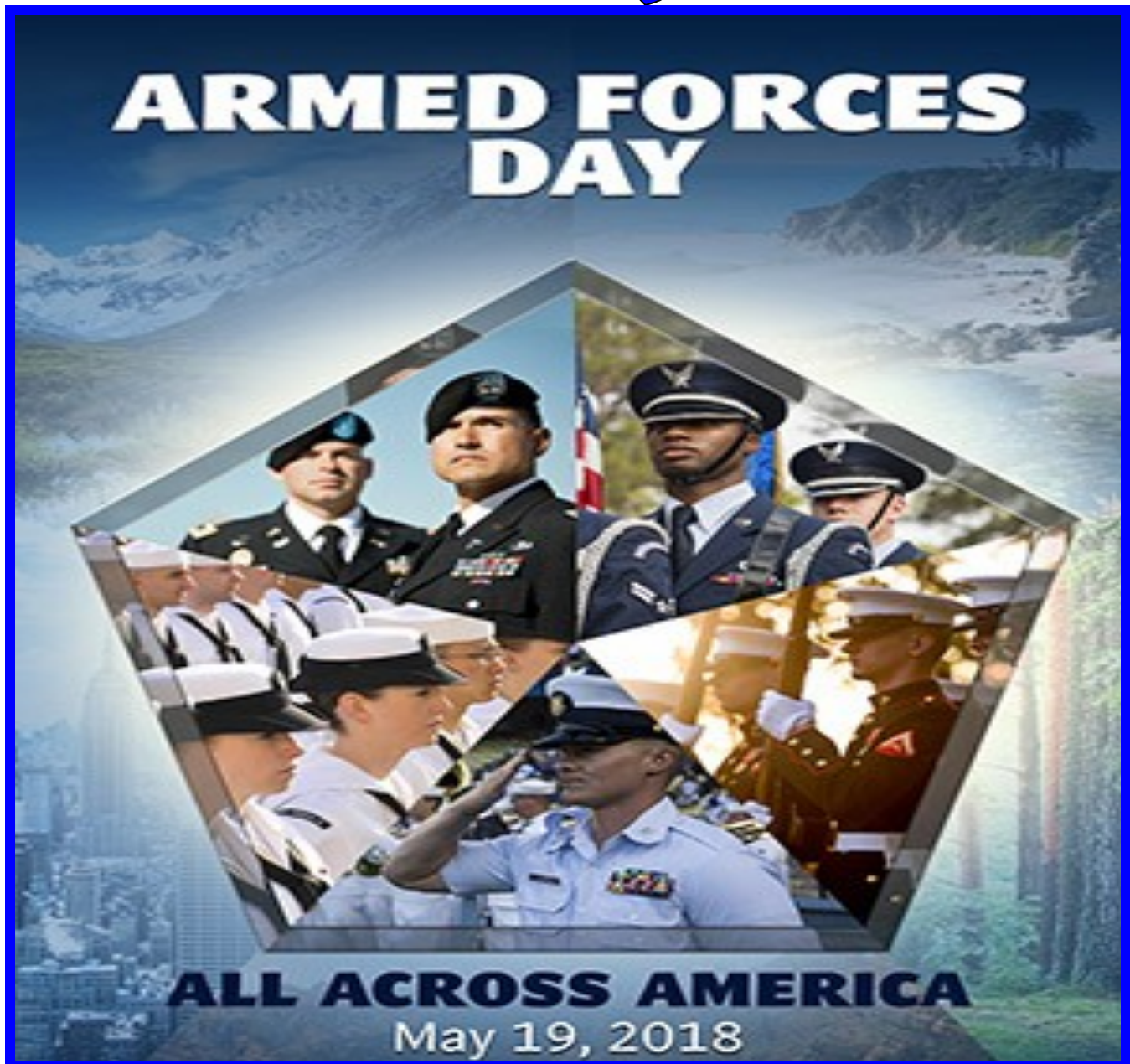
Robert W. Banta, is a World War II Veteran who served in the United States Navy as Lieutenant Naval Aviator from 1942 – 1945. He was assigned to the USS Randolph (CV 15), 5th Fleet, flying a TBF Avenger. On June 11, 1943 during a carrier qualification exercise on the USS Wolverine in Lake Michigan, the Grumman TBF-1 Avenger Torpedo Bomber, Serial #01747 that he was flying caught on fire and he radioed the flight tower that he needed to land the aircraft. Because the USS Wolverine had a wooden deck, for safety the flight crew signaled for him to make a water landing. The TBF Avenger water landing was accomplished and he was taken to safety by the chase rescue boat personnel. The TBF Avenger then sank to the bottom of Lake Michigan where it would remain for over 50 years. Lt. Robert W. Banta continued his service and received the Distinguished Flying Cross and two Air Medals for heroism in carrying out his missions.

In 2003, the DNAS Museum accepted the TBF Avenger wreckage from the Navy after it was pulled from Lake Michigan after 60 years. For the past 14 years, Veterans, Volunteers and Community Partners shared their expertise, donated equipment and supplies and have worked with determination to rebuild and restore the aircraft wreckage of the TBF Avenger inside the Ronald N. Herman Restoration Building. On April 22, 2017 the DNAS Museum held a public open house to roll out and fully open the wings of the restored TBF Avenger. Robert W. Banta, was honored as we celebrated the years of hard work by many Veterans and Volunteers, some no longer with us, to preserve the historic aircraft for the education of future generations.

We were honored to meet Robert Banta and will proudly display items from his military history in the DNAS Museum for generations.



MAY 19, 2018



President Harry S. Truman led the effort to establish a single holiday for citizens to come together and thank our military members for their patriotic service in support of our country.

On August 31, 1949, Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced the creation of an Armed Forces Day to replace separate Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force Days. The single day celebration stemmed from the unification of the Armed Forces under the Department of Defense. On May 19, 2017, President Donald Trump reaffirmed the Armed Forces Day holiday, marking the 70th anniversary since the creation of the Department of Defense.

EMBRY RIDDLE VETERANS APPRECIATION 2018



DNAS Museum Veterans attended the annual Embry Riddle Aeronautical University Veteran's Appreciation lunch held each year to honor Veterans and thank them for their service to our country.

Students from Embry Riddle continue to volunteer at the museum and we appreciate their assistance.

DNASM Welcomes Skye Schwartz Tour Guide/Volunteer



Skye Schwartz is currently an undergraduate student at Stetson University studying Biology. She previously attended Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University where she studied Mechanical Engineering and Human Factors for two years before she transferred to Stetson. Her goal is to become a Naval Aviator and eventually a Naval Astronaut. She is a NASA Solar System Ambassador (SSA), where she makes presentations, speeches, and hosts events to inform the public about NASA and current events in the space community. Skye is the Founder of OCEAN. Find out more about Skye on her website <https://skyeschwartz.com>. We look forward to working with Skye and appreciate her sharing her talent as a Volunteer to assist the DNAS Museum in many areas.



DNAS Museum Tours

DNAS MUSEUM HAD ANOTHER BUSY MONTH WITH INDIVIDUAL GROUPS, STUDENTS, VOLUSIA COUNTY ECHO RANGERS AND BUS TOUR VISITS.

VISITORS CONTINUE TO LOG IN FROM LOCAL, STATE, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL DESTINATIONS.

WE MEET THE MOST INTERESTING PEOPLE AND LEARN SO MANY FACTS ABOUT INDIVIDUAL MILITARY SERVICE HISTORY AND FAMILY LINKS TO THE DeLAND NAVAL AIR STATION DURING WWII, 1942-1946.



DNASM YARD SALE FUNDRAISER

Many thanks to our community for donating items and supporting our annual Yard Sale fundraiser held in the Ronald Herman Assembly Pavilion. A special thanks to the West Volusia Historical Society and the Hidden Hills Community. We had such a large number of items for sale, we extended the event for another week. Thanks to all of our Volunteers who assisted with the heavy lifting, set-up, sales and event clean up. We could not do it without you!!

Watch for upcoming sales by our Community Partners The African American Museum of the Arts, Barberville Pioneer Settlement and Friends of DeBary Hall. We hope the community will also support their fundraisers and we'll keep you posted on other upcoming events.



Tosohatchee Wildlife Management Area - Christmas, Florida

WWII CRASH SITE UPDATE

Volunteers from the DeLand Naval Air Station Museum returned to the Tosohatchee Wildlife Management area WWII plane crash site along with staff from the Florida Fish & Wildlife Preservation Unit, and Florida Airboat Search & Rescue with search dogs.



The Debris Search Continues For Plane Identification



Search Coordinated With
The Navy History & Heritage Command
Washington D.C.





RESTORATION UPDATES



Greg and Gene Work On
TV2 Restoration



Volunteers Continue
Prep Work on Steel Beams
For Annex Rebuild Project



SEATTLE—For weeks the Wave had saluted a young officer daily as she hopped along the street. And for weeks he had returned her salute—grinning broadly.

"Say, what's his rank, anyway?" she asked a barracksmate at last.

"Can't say," said her friend. "But he's officer of the guard at the bank where I cash my checks."

WWII DeLANDINGS HUMOR

He Learned

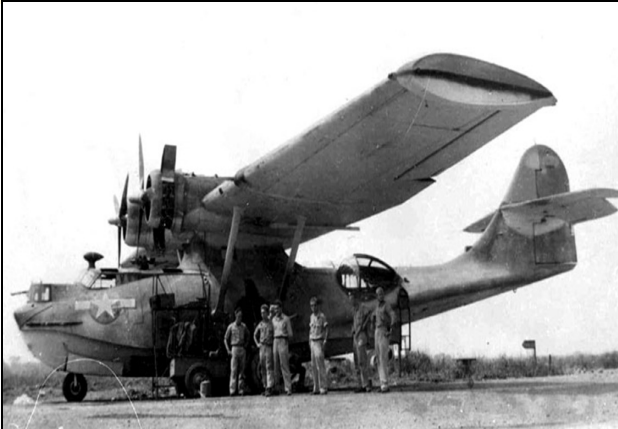
Dear Ma: I joined the Navy because I admired the way that the ships were kept so clean and tidy. But I never knew until this week who keeps them so clean and tidy.

WWII HISTORY "BAD ANGEL"

Lt. Louis Curdes



Pilot Lt. Louis Curdes in his P-51 Mustang "Bad Angel".



Lt. Louis Curdes, USAAF, was an ace in WWII. He scored victories against the Germans, Italians, and Japanese. His plane flouted his victories with 7 German flags painted on the fuselage, along with 1 Italian flag, 1 Rising Sun, and 1 AMERICAN FLAG FOR WHICH HE RECEIVED THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS!

While attacking the Japanese island of Bataan, a wingman was shot down. While providing cover for the rescue, he saw an American C-47 transport approaching Bataan getting ready to land. He knew the crew and passengers would be captured when they landed and either be killed outright or tortured. He tried to make radio contact, but without success. He maneuvered his Mustang in front of the big transport several times trying to wave it off. The C-47 kept to its landing target. He lined up his P-51 directly behind the transport, carefully sighted one of his .50 caliber machine guns and knocked out one of its two engines. Still the C-47 continued on toward the Bataan airfield. Lt. Curdes knocked out the remaining engine, leaving the baffled pilot no choice but to ditch in the ocean near his wingman. The 12 crew, including two nurses were able to climb into life rafts and were soon rescued.

When Lt. Curdes realized he knew one of the nurses, he asked her to marry him. What a unique way to find a wife! Lt. Curdes was honored to paint an American flag on his plane. The "BAD ANGEL" is restored to beautiful condition and is on proud display at the Pima Air and Space Museum in Tucson, Arizona.

Honor A Veteran or Family Member

DeLand Naval Air Station Museum, Inc.

Education Building Project

910 Biscayne Boulevard
DeLand, Florida 32724

26'x60' RECYCLED METAL BUILDING WILL BE BUILT BY VOLUNTEERS WITH
DONATED MATERIALS AND IN-KIND SERVICES FROM THE COMMUNITY



DONATION FORM

With the support of Volunteers, donations and in-kind services from our Community Partners, our new Education Building ANNEX will enable us to further preserve our history with educational activities and services for Veterans, young people, families, tourists and future generations. **Campaign Coordinator Scott Storz, (321) 303-9093 OR (386) 822-2809.**

DATE: _____ I/WE WISH TO SUPPORT THE DNAS MUSEUM

EDUCATION BUILDING CAMPAIGN WITH A GIFT/PLEDGE OF \$ _____ OR

IN-KIND SERVICE OF: _____ OR

DONATE ON-LINE WITH PAYPAL/CREDIT CARD www.delandnavalairmuseum.org

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

CONTACT PHONE #: _____

EMAIL: (PLEASE PRINT) _____

*Name as you wish to be acknowledged in print: _____

_____ I Want To Honor the following Person: _____

Return to: DeLand Naval Air Station Museum, New Building Campaign, 910 Biscayne Boulevard, DeLand, Florida 32724. The DeLand Naval Air Station Museum is a non-profit 501(C)(3) organization. Federal Tax ID: # 59-3227793. Contributions are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

VISIT VOLUSIA COUNTY

SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS



skydivedeland.com

Mainstreet DeLand Association

mainstreetdeland.org



delandhouse.com

Rodney Thomas

Osteen, FL



daytonabud.com



visitwestvolusia.com
Stetson Sports Program



daytonabahamahouse.com



bestwestern.com



delandsuites.hamptoninn

Jim & Beverly Outlaw
Fred & Nancy Clark
Hampton Inn & Suites DeLand



African American Museum of the Arts

Barberville Pioneer Settlement

Central Florida Nature Adventure Tours

kayakcentralflorida.com

Central Florida Metal Detecting Club

www.thecfmdc.com

COUNTY OF VOLUSIA - ECHO Rangers

VETERANS SERVICES - volusia .org

Daytona Beach Area Convention

& Visitors Bureau

Daytona Beach Navy League

Defending Freedom Warrior Weekend

DeLand High School Student Volunteers

DeLeon Springs State Park

*Old Sugar Mill Restaurant—DeLeon Springs

*Fountain of Youth ECO Tours

Deltona Memorial Funeral Home

www.dignitymemorial.com

Diamond Productions Custom Audio/Video

Dr. Harry Price (386) 985-4788

Dottie's Florist—dottiesflorist.com

Ed's Crane Service (386) 532-0745

Embry Riddle "Riddle Redeemers" Students

EBY Travel and Tours, LLC www.ebytravel.com

FLA Sheriff Operation Purple Youth Camp

Great Tasting Tours DeLand

www.greattastingtours.com

Florida Airboat & Rescue Team

Michael Arth—michaelarth.com

Museum of Arts & Sciences History Con

Cecil & Hyatt Brown Museum of Art

New York Yankees Media—Raquel Julish

"They Also Served Program"

Nails & Waxing by Kim—(386) 334-5923

Orlando Science Center

Orlando History Center

Persimmon Hollow Women's Club

San Sebastian Winery—St. Augustine

SeaWorld Aquatica—Orlando

Sea Scouts—Student Volunteers

Spruce Creek Scuba.com

St. Augustine Lighthouse Museum

Stetson University Sports Program

Universal Studios—Orlando

University High Student Volunteers

Walt Disney World Orlando

West Crane Service

WEST VOLUSIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

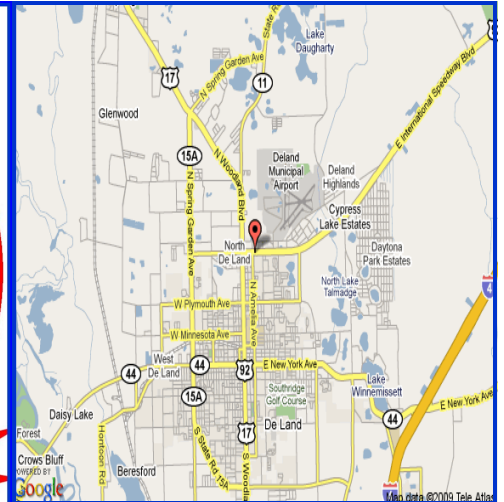
Thank You Volunteers !!

Tour Guides Needed - Individuals or Couples

SAVE THE DATE - 27th Big Band "Dance Across The Decades" November 9, 2018



**National Register
of Historic Places**



DeLand Municipal Airport



The DeLand Naval Air Station Museum, Inc.

Serving DeLand, Volusia County and the State of Florida

Preserving Military & Local History

In Memory of ALL Who Served



DeLand Naval Air Station Museum, Inc.

910 Biscayne Boulevard

DeLand, FL 32724

Phone: 386-738-4149

www.delandnavairmuseum.org

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK!!

Hours of Operation: 12 Noon—4 p.m.

Wednesday through Sunday

Call to Schedule Group Tours for Adult & Youth Groups



JOIN TODAY OR DONATE

(DONATE WITH CREDIT CARD ON WEBSITE)

Thank You Museum Volunteers !!

